

Betterbee[®]

Beekeepers Serving Beekeepers

Swarm Catch

Introduction

Swarming is one of the beekeeper's major problems. There isn't always enough time to carry out the necessary prevention and control measures. Swarm Catch can capture many swarms from your own hives thus reducing loss of bees and honey due to swarming.

Background

Synthetically produced Nasonov will attract swarms to unoccupied hive equipment or a swarm-catching box. Research shows that, on average, swarms from the area will occupy 50-80% of catch boxes containing Nasonov (provided there is a reasonable amount of swarming in the area).

Preparing and Setting Trap Boxes

To attract swarms, use Swarm Catch in a box (super) of frames (empty combs). Boxes should face south and have a bottom entrance. Boxes should be off the ground about one meter (3ft.). Boxes set at the edge of an apiary will capture swarms from other areas. To capture swarms from your apiary, place boxes as far away as possible (at least 250 meters). This distance is important because scout bees naturally select nest sites some distance away from the parent hive.

Do not put combs of honey in box as they attract robbing bees and ants. Light colored combs are recommended since there is less chance of brood disease being present and they are not so likely to be attractive to wax moths.

Using and Storing Lures

- STORE IN FREEZER until used
- When using, LEAVE THE CAP ON and place the tube on the side bar of a frame near the hive entrance. There is a very small "loop" at the top of the tube through which a pin or tack can be inserted when attaching it to the frame.
- DO NOT PIERCE TUBE; the pheromone will diffuse through the plastic.
- It is best to use rubber gloves when handling lures.
- Lures will last for 3 months.
- Lures can be re-used. For longer lure life, re-freeze between uses.